Intermediate Application No

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C04835/573 C048 C22C29/06 C04B37/00 C04B41/50 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) CO4B C22C IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) **WPI** Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages X US 4 247 304 A (GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY) 1-12 27 January 1981 (1981-01-27) column 8, line 34 - line 59 column 9, line 65 -column 10, line 3 examples 1-4 X US 6 447 852 B1 (AMBLER TECHNOLOGIES, 1 - 12INC.) 10 September 2002 (2002-09-10) column 22, line 56 -column 23, line 22; claims 1-44 X EP 1 253 123 A (FRENTON LIMITED) 1-12 30 October 2002 (2002-10-30) cited in the application paragraphs '0047!, '0057!, '0099!, '0107!; claims 1-15 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means in the art. "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 8 October 2003 14/10/2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo n!, Luethe, H Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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